

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 21449

EXCON

E.O. 11652 XGDS1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJECT: COCOM: REVISED COMPUTER CONTROL LEVELS

REFS: A. COCOM DOC REV (71) 1565/31

B. STATE 182648, 184052, AND 193488

C. BONN 12997

1. SUMMARY: GERMAN COCOM DEL CIRCULATED MEMORANDUM DATED 8/19 EXPLAINING GERMAN OPPOSITION TO US POSITION ON RIGHT OF ACCESS AND VISITATION. MEMORANDUM INDICATES GERMAN INTENTION MAINTAIN RESERVE THEREON. GERMANS PREPARED HOWEVER TO AGREE TO NEW ITEM 1565 PROVIDING RIGHT OF VISITATION LIMITED TO QUARTERLY VISITS FOR 6 YEARS AND INVITES DISCUSSION ON THIS PROPOSAL DURING ROUND 4. END SUMMARY.

2. GERMAN DEL CIRCULATED EXPLANATORY MEMO ON GERMAN POSITION (REFDOC A) RE VISITATION AND RIGHT OF ACCESS AS PROMISED REFTEL C. PRINCIPAL POINTS MEMO PARAPHRASED HEREIN. COMPLETE TEXT BEING POUCHED 8/22.

3. MEMO STATES THAT US VIEW REGARDING RIGHT OF ACCESS AND VISITATION IS NOT PROPORTIONATE TO THE STRATEGIC IM-
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PORTANCE OF THE COMPUTERS COVERED BY NOTE 5, THAT THEY

IMPOSE AN UNJUSTIFIABLE FINANCIAL BURDEN ON SUPPLYING FIRMS, AND THEY COULD CAUSE REPERCUSSIONS FOR GERMAN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH EASTERN COUNTRIES. IN SUPPORT OF THIS POSITION GERMAN MEMO STATES THAT (A) RIGHT OF ACCESS ONLY JUSTIFIABLE SO LONG AS COMPUTERS ARE SUPERIOR TO THOSE BUILT IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. (B) UNLIMITED ACCESS IS AN EXPRESSION OF PERMANENT DISTRUST AND IT IS RELATIVELY IMPROBABLE THAT COMPUTER WILL BE DIVERTED AFTER SEVERAL YEARS FROM AUTHORIZED END-USE. (C) US PROPOSAL IMPLIES 48 VISITS IN THE COURSE OF 6 YEARS WHICH ENTAILS CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL STRAIN ON SUPPLIER. SINCE BULK OF END-USERS IN THE FUTURE WILL PROBABLY EQUIP COMPUTERS WITH 72/100 MB DISCS, VISITATION WOULD BE REQUIRED UNDER US PROPOSAL EVEN FOR RELATIVELY SMALL COMPUTERS. (D) MONTHLY VISITS WOULD HAVE ONLY PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT AS ACTIVITIES NOT ORIGINALLY PLANNED COULD NOT FACTUALLY BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN 1-MONTH PERIOD. ALSO ANY UNAUTHORIZED USE COULD BE DISCOVERED BY VISITS MADE AT GREATER INTERVALS.

4. FOR THE ABOVE-CITED REASONS GERMAN DEL UNABLE TO LIFT THEIR RESERVE 1565 ALTHOUGH THIS MAY ENTAIL DELAY IN REACHING CONCLUSION THEREON. GERMANS ARE PREPARED HOWEVER TO AGREE TO THE NEW ITEM 1565 PROVIDED THE RIGHT OF VISITATION IS LIMITED TO QUARTERLY VISITS FOR 6 YEARS. GERMANS PROPOSE TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION FURTHER DURING COMING FOURTH ROUND LIST REVIEW.
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